



## Terwilliger Fire Update

### Southern Cascades Interagency Incident Management Team

Incident Commander, Neil Miller

Incident Commander Trainee, Dirk Rogers

September 26, 2018 - 9:00 A.M.

**Special Announcements:** The Willamette National Forest implemented an Area Closure on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 around the Terwilliger Fire area for the safety of the public and firefighters. Entry into this area shuts fire suppression operations down until the violators are removed to safety. These delays cumulatively set back the date for completion of hazard removal work. **Please refrain from entering the closed areas.**

More smoke may be in the air in the coming days as McKenzie Ranger District begins fall season meadow restoration burning. Burning is scheduled to begin Friday and continue for the next several days as conditions allow.

Terwilliger Hot Springs (also known as Cougar Hot Springs) remains closed for public safety. Mitigations to reduce hazards around the springs area will include falling fire weakened trees as well as trail reconstruction. Active fire is still in the area so please respect the closure area and keep out of the springs until the area is deemed safe by Willamette National Forest officials. Law enforcement is citing violators of the closure illegally entering the hot springs area.

Forest Service Road (FR) 19 remains closed to the public and firefighters due to unsafe conditions from gravity fall hazards including rocks, debris and fire weakened trees. The closure begins at the junction of FR 408 south to Box Canyon. **The public is asked to respect the road and area closures for protection to themselves and firefighters.**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest jointly responded to the report of the Terwilliger Fire with both aircraft and firefighter resources. Although the fire did not burn on to ODF protected lands, the agency has stayed involved with suppression actions and planning.

**Acreage:** 11,294; acreage increase resulted by including larger unburned islands of fuel into the total

**Cause:** The fire is currently under investigation.

**Completion:** 80%

**Public Information Phone:** (541) 822-8216 Available 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Information Websites:** Inciweb – <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160> **Email:** [terwilligerfireinfo@gmail.com](mailto:terwilligerfireinfo@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/willamettewildfires/>

**Resources:** Total personnel assigned – 180: 3-type 2 IA hand crews, 1-heavy lift helicopter, 1-light lift helicopter, 5-engines, 1-dozer, 1-water tender, 2-ambulances, 4-masticators, and 18-heavy equipment.

**Current Fire Information:** Gusty east winds forecasted for yesterday did not materialize. Firefighters remained on patrol later into the evening watching for any spot fires and increased fire activity especially along the west containment lines. The same plan is scheduled for tonight.

With warmer temperatures, a few locations on the fire became active yesterday. Basalt and Annie Creeks saw increased activity well interior of the containment lines. The fire also increased in activity on the east perimeter in the Three Sisters Wilderness burning southward. A heavy lift helicopter provided air support with multiple water drops to cool the areas and keep the fire in check. All perimeters are closely patrolled and monitored with emphasis on the west flank near the private lands.

Culvert construction has begun at Boone Creek to replace the plastic culvert burned out during the Terwilliger Fire under FR 19. The contract scaling operation along FR 19 to reduce gravity hazards such as loose boulders and fire weakened trees is ongoing. This operation was suspended again during an illegal entry by the public. All material is being moved off-site to Strube Flat for utilization, as determined by local forest district management. The hazard tree falling contract along FR 500 is ongoing to reduce fire weakened trees along this road system. Logs will be decked for future processing. Firefighters along with a mechanical roadside brusher are reducing ladder fuels along FR 1993. Chippers are being utilized to reduce the generated fuels.

**Weather:** Today will be warmer and drier with maximum temperatures forecast near 80 degrees and minimum relative humidity of 15-25%. Ridgetop winds will be east 3-5 mph with gusts to 10 mph in the early evening.

**Restrictions:** The Willamette National Forest has implemented a Forest-wide campfire ban, which includes all campgrounds and Wilderness areas. For specific information on Forest Order 06-18-01-18-18, see the Willamette National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>.

**Closures:** An Area Closure has been issued by the Willamette National Forest for the protection and safety of the public and firefighters. Closure order # 06-18-01-18-19 may be viewed in its entirety at <http://go.usa.gov/xRnz7> or on [Inciweb](http://inciweb). Please respect the closure areas for your and firefighter safety.

**Evacuations:** There are currently NO evacuation notices in place for this fire.

**Air Quality:** For smoke monitoring information, see Oregon Department of Environmental Quality <https://oraqi.deq.state.or.us/home/map> or <https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/> or <http://www.lrapa.org> Smoke in the nearby communities is not expected to be an issue but any smoke in the air has the potential to move into the valley so those with sensitivities should take proper precautions.

**Safety Consideration:** As temperatures increase, grasses and lighter fuels will continue to dry and become more susceptible to burning. So please do not park in grassy areas near trailheads or while out in the forest. If pulling a trailer, please check that chains are not dragging and creating sparks.

~~~~~

